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1881

University of South Carolina.



# ALUMNI ASSOCIATION.

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## ADDRESS

DELIVERED IN THE

HALL OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

BEFORE THE

# ALUMNI OF SOUTH CAROLINA COLLEGE

BY

LeROY F. YOUMANS,

*One of the Alumni.*

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December 6th, 1881.

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COLUMBIA, S. C.:

PRINTED AT THE PRESBYTERIAN PUBLISHING HOUSE.

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## ALUMNI ASSOCIATION.

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At a Reunion of the Class which graduated in South Carolina College in 1846, held at Columbia on the 7th December, 1880, the following resolution was adopted :

*Resolved*, That for the purpose of initiating a movement for the formation of an Association of the Alumni of the South Carolina College, and of the University of South Carolina, the following gentlemen, to wit : Hon. J. L. Manning, Hon. W. D. Simpson, Hon. H. McIver, Hon. Samuel McGowan, Hon. Chas. H. Simonton, Hon. A. C. Haskell, Prof. J. H. Carlisle, LL. D., Gen. Jno. Bratton, Hon. W. H. Perry, be requested to act as a Committee to call a meeting of the Alumni, select a suitable person to prepare an address to be delivered before them, and to make such other arrangements as may be necessary to provide for the meeting of the Alumni.

That the Secretary be requested to furnish each member of the Committee with a copy of these resolutions.

W. H. PARKER, *Secretary*.

In accordance with this resolution, the gentlemen named called a meeting of the Alumni, and invited the Hon. LeRoy F. Youmans to deliver an address before them. The meeting was held in the Hall of the House of Representatives on the 6th December ; and after listening to Mr. Youmans's address, the Alumni Association of South Carolina College was formed.

## MINUTES.

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COLUMBIA, S. C., December 6, 1881.

A large number of gentlemen, formerly students in the South Carolina College, assembled in the hall of the House of Representatives.

Col. J. H. Rion called the meeting to order, and, on his motion, the meeting was organized by requesting Hon. Jno. L. Manning to take the chair.

Hon. Jno. L. Manning took the chair, and, on motion of Col. Rion, Messrs. James Simons and Jno. T. Sloan, Jr., were appointed Secretaries.

Mr. A. S. J. Perry stated that the object of the meeting was to form an Association to be known as the Alumni Association of the South Carolina College, and moved that a Committee of three be appointed to prepare and submit a Constitution and By-laws for the government of the Association.

The Chair appointed as the Committee, Messrs. A. S. J. Perry, Jno. Bratton, R. W. Shand.

On motion of Col. F. W. McMaster, it was

*Resolved*, That the gentlemen present be requested to sign a roll, giving their post-offices, professions or occupations, and the date of their leaving College.

On motion of Rev. E. H. Buist, it was

*Resolved*, That a Committee of two be appointed to draft a memorial to be presented to the General Assembly, praying that the South Carolina College and University be reopened.

The Chair appointed as this Committee, Rev. E. H. Buist and Rev. E. L. Patton.

Mr. A. S. J. Perry, for the Committee appointed to prepare a Constitution and By-laws for the Association, made the following report:

The Committee appointed to draft the Constitution, beg leave to submit:

ARTICLE I. The name of the Association shall be, The Alumni Association of the South Carolina College and University.

ART. II The object of the Association is to bring together in fraternal union all those who have enjoyed the fostering care of the South

Carolina College and University, to promote the welfare and interests of the institution, and to advance the cause of Education within and throughout the State of South Carolina.

ART. III. The officers of the Association shall be a President, five Vice Presidents, Secretary and Treasurer, who shall be elected at the annual meeting of the Association, and shall continue in office for one year, or until their successors are chosen.

ART. IV. These officers, together with fourteen other members to be elected at the annual meeting of the Association, shall constitute an Executive Committee, which shall have power to attend to the business of the Association in the *interim* of its meetings.

ART. V. All persons who have been students in the South Carolina College previous to the first day of January, 1874, and subsequent to first day of January, 1880, and all persons who shall hereafter be students in said College and University, shall be eligible to membership after they have left the College.

ART. VI. Any person eligible according to Art. V., desiring to join the Association, may be elected a member of the Association at an annual meeting, or by the Executive Committee at any meeting of the same.

ART. VII. Each member, on his election, shall pay the sum of one dollar, and further, to defray the expenses of the Association, each member shall pay to the Treasurer the sum of one dollar on or before the day of the annual meeting of the Association.

ART. VIII. The Professors, ex-Professors, and Trustees, shall be regarded honorary members of the Association, and the Association or Executive Committee may elect as honorary members such other persons as they see fit.

ART. IX. The Association shall hold an annual meeting in the city of Columbia on the first Monday in December in each and every year, at such hour and place as shall be designated by the Executive Committee, notice whereof shall be given by said Executive Committee in such manner as it shall deem best.

ART. X. The Executive Committee shall hold such meetings, and at such hours and places, as they shall determine.

ART. XI. At the meetings of the Association, twenty-one members shall constitute a quorum. At the meetings of the Executive Committee, seven members of the same shall constitute a quorum.

ART. XII. An address shall be delivered at each annual meeting by a member selected at the preceding meeting; and in case the person so

selected shall decline, or should become unable to prepare such address, the Executive Committee shall be authorized to elect an orator in his stead.

On motion of Mr. A. C. Haskell, the Constitution and By-laws were adopted, with the amendment that the day of meeting be on the first Wednesday after the first Monday in December.

An election for officers of the Association was then held, and the following gentlemen elected:

*President.*

HON. JOHN L. MANNING.

*Vice Presidents.*

HON. W. D. SIMPSON,  
HON. HENRY McIVER,  
HON. J. H. CARLISLE, LL. D.,  
HON. C. H. SIMONTON,  
GEN. JNO. BRATTON.

*Secretary and Treasurer.*

COL. F. W. McMASTER.

*Executive Committtee.*

HON. ALEX. McQUEEN,  
HON. SAMUEL MCGOWAN,  
HON. THOS. B. JETER,  
COL. J. H. RION,  
HON. A. S. J. PERRY,  
REV. E. L. PATTON,  
W. H. HUGER, M. D.,  
REV. E. H. BUIST,  
HON. W. H. PERRY,  
HON. R. W. SHAND,  
HON. A. C. HASKELL,  
HON. C. J. C. HUTSON,  
HON. J. J. HEMPHILL,  
N. B. BARNWELL, ESQ.

Mr. Thomas M. Hanckel was then elected orator for the next annual meeting.



On motion of Rev. E. L. Patton, D. D., it was

*Resolved*, That the thanks of the Association be tendered to the Hon. LeRoy F. Youmans for his eloquent, finished, and classical address, and that a copy of the same be requested for publication.

Rev. E. H. Buist, on behalf of the Committee appointed to prepare the Memorial to the General Assembly, submitted the following

### MEMORIAL.

Your petitioners respectfully call your attention to the following facts as the grounds of their appeal:

First. To the distinguished and important part which the College has played in the history of our beloved Commonwealth in dispensing a liberal education for more than half a century, by which her sons were fitted for the high and responsible positions which they filled in all public offices within our borders. South Carolina could never have been what she was without the old South Carolina College. Many who have added lustre to her fame were trained in the old College, founded by the wisdom and supported by the generosity of our fathers.

Second. Economy demands the establishment of a State Institution, to which our sons may repair, instead of resorting to institutions beyond our borders. Thousands of dollars could thus be kept within our own confines that are now, and will be, expended beyond the limits of the State.

Third. The immediate and most pressing want of the hour is to remove all alienations from the hearts of our people. This necessity which presses upon us—that South Carolina should be a unit, and her children feel that they are members of the same family—this can be achieved by no agency so effectually as by a *common* place of education, to which her children can resort, and walk arm in arm through the hallowed season of youth. Her sons, educated at a great State Institution, will be the last to foment discord and foster feuds.

Fourth. Almost all our sister States have already founded, or are about to establish, such central State institutions; and South Carolina, which was among the foremost of the Southern States, cannot afford to lag behind, and allow her citizens to grow up in ignorance and (its inevitable consequence) *vice*.

Fifth. Such an institution would be, as heretofore, the centre from which light must radiate to all parts of the State—the source from which would be derived that knowledge so essential to our prosperity as a com-

monwealth. This State Institution would be, in time, the consummation of our public school system—an institution to which her children could repair, and secure that “higher culture” which now they have to seek beyond her territory.

Sixth. Your petitioners further show that a very small appropriation would secure these incalculable benefits. Already does the State own the necessary buildings; the library is as fine as there is in any Southern State; and there are all the other equipments demanded by such an institution. The body is there; and it needs but the breath of life to become a *living soul* that shall bless the State for generations to come.

Finally, such an institution will interfere with no educational enterprise in other portions of the State. On the contrary, it will *stimulate* and *develop* those within our own borders, as similar institutions have done in other States.

By way of summary or recapitulation: It will complete our system of public schools. It will meet the requirements of ever-advancing intelligence. It will contribute to the revenue of the State by keeping within our borders money which will else be spent outside; and to accomplish all this, a VERY SMALL APPROPRIATION will be required.

We are laying now the foundation for the future house in which we, as a people, are to dwell. Let us build *wisely*.

In view of all these facts, and on these grounds, we, the Alumni of the South Carolina College and University, respectfully petition your Honorable Body to make such appropriation.

And your petitioners will ever pray.

JOHN L. MANNING,  
*Pres. of Alumni Soc. S. C. C. and U.*

F. W. McMASTER,  
*Secretary.*

## MEMBERS OF THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION.

YEAR.	NAME.	PROFESSION.	POST OFFICE.
1828	John C. Faber.....	M. D.....	Columbia, S. C.
1830	L. J. Patterson.....	Farmer .....	Liberty Hill, S. C.
1831	Thos. M. Lyles.....	Farmer .....	Lylesford, S. C.
1831	John T. Sloan.....	Clerk House Repre's.	Columbia, S. C.
1833	B. F. Williamson.....	Farmer .....	Darlington, S. C.
1827	J. P. Carroll.....	Attorney-at-Law....	Columbia, S. C.
1827	Francis W. Fickling.....	Attorney-at-Law....	Columbia, S. C.
1834	E. Y. Fair.....	Planter ....	Montgomery, Ala.
1834	M. L. Bonham.....	Lawyer .....	Edgefield, S. C.
1837	John L. Manning.....	Planter .....	Fulton P. O., S. C.
1838	Edward M. Boykin.....	M. D.....	Camden, S. C.
1840	E. D. Smith.....	M. D .....	Richland, S. C.
1840	Wilmot G. DeSaussure...	Lawyer .....	Charleston, S. C.
1840	Tho. M. Hancel.....	Lawyer .....	Charleston, S. C.
1841	S. McGowan.....	Judge .....	Abbeville C. H., S. C.
1843	D. L. Anderson.....	Physician .....	Laurens C. H., S. C.
1852	T. Stobo Farrow.....	Lawyer .....	Spartanburg, S. C.
1849	J. L. Jones.....	Planter .....	Liberty Hill, S. C.
1849	Wm. Weston.....	M. D.....	Richland Co., S. C.
1861	H. W. Rice.....	Lawyer .....	Lexington, S. C.
1842	H. P. Green.....	.....	Columbia, S. C.
1861	John M. Bell.....	Planter .....	Graniteville, S. C.
1861	Wm. R. Atkinson.....	Teacher (Principal).	Charlotte, N. C.
1855	Alfred Wallace.....	M. D.....	Columbia, S. C.
1862	Iredell Jones.....	Planter .....	Rock Hill, S. C.
1857	J. D. Kennedy.....	Lawyer .....	Camden, S. C.
1862	T. J. Moore.....	Planter ....	Spartanburg, S. C.
1852	LeRoy F. Youmans. ....	Lawyer .....	Columbia, S. C.
1859	Richard I. Manning.....	Planter .....	Fort Motte, S. C.
1855	Jas. McCutchen.....	Planter .....	Kingstree, S. C.
1855	B. F. Whitner.....	Lawyer .....	Anderson, S. C.
1849	W. Z. Leitner.....	Lawyer .....	Camden, S. C.
1856	W. J. DuRant.....	Planter .....	Sumter, S. C.
1856	E. H. Kellers.....	Physician .....	Charleston, S. C.
1855	B. W. Taylor.....	Physician .....	Columbia, S. C.
1842	James D. Trzevant.....	Farmer .....	Fort Motte, S. C.
1848	Wm. S. Dogan.....	Reporter of Register.	Columbia, S. C.
1849	Charles H. Simonton.....	Lawyer .....	Charleston, S. C.
1868	Jos. W. Barnwell.....	Lawyer ....	Charleston, S. C.
1868	John T. Sloan, Jr.....	Lawyer .....	Columbia, S. C.
1873	Wm. H. Faber.....	Lawyer .....	Charleston, S. C.

YEAR.	NAME.	PROFESSION.	POST OFFICE.
1847	F. W. McMaster.....	Lawyer.....	Columbia, S. C.
1849	John P. Richardson.....	Planter.....	Panola, S. C.
1850	John E. Bacon.....	Lawyer.....	Columbia, S. C.
1857	M. C. Butler.....	Lawyer.....	Edgefield, S. C.
1847	Thomas Frost.....	Lawyer.....	Charleston, S. C.
1862	Malcolm I. Browning....	Lawyer.....	Orangeburg, S. C.
1850	James H. Rion.....	Lawyer.....	Winnsboro, S. C.
1839	A. R. Springs.....	Planter.....	Charlotte, N. C.
1854	G. S. Trezevant.....	Physician.....	Columbia, S. C.
1843	W. D. Simpson.....	Judge.....	Columbia, S. C.
1846	Henry McIver.....	Judge.....	Cheraw, S. C.
1850	Jno. Bratton.....	Planter.....	Fairfield, S. C.
1850	G. H. McMaster.....	Merchant.....	Winnsboro, S. C.
1851	R. H. Clarkson.....	Teacher.....	Columbia, S. C.
1856	John T. Rhett.....	Lawyer.....	Columbia, S. C.
1852	P. E. Griffin.....	Physician.....	Columbia, S. C.
1858	E. H. Buist.....	Minister.....	Cheraw, S. C.
1858	W. W. Spencer.....	Planter.....	Cheraw, S. C.
1858	W. W. Legaré.....	Professor.....	Walhalla, S. C.
1852	R. W. Boyd.....	Lawyer.....	Darlington, S. C.
1852	E. C. McLure.....	Lawyer.....	Chester, S. C.
1852	Ed. H. Barnwell.....	Merchant.....	Charleston, S. C.
1852	Thos. W. Woodward.....	Farmer.....	Winnsboro, S. C.
1859	C. J. C. Hutson.....	Lawyer.....	Yemassee, S. C.
1860	A. C. Haskell.....	Law.....	Columbia, S. C.
1847	A. D. Goodwyn.....	Planter.....	Fort Motte, S. C.
1847	James Farrow.....	Law.....	Laurens S. C.
1847	Jas. N. Lipscomb.....	Planter.....	Newberry, S. C.
1852	Thomas J. Lipscomb.....	Sup't S. C. Penite'y.	Columbia, S. C.
1861	W. K. Thompson.....	Merchant & Planter.	Liberty Hill, S. C.
1866	Newman K. Perry.....	Lawyer.....	Columbia, S. C.
1868	A. C. Moore.....	Lawyer.....	Columbia, S. C.
1854	J. H. Brooks.....	Planter.....	Ninety-Six, S. C.
1854	I. D. Witherspoon.....	Lawyer.....	Yorkville, S. C.
1842	Wm. Pinkney Starke....	Teaching.....	Beech Island, S. C.
1848	A. N. Talley.....	Physician.....	Columbia, S. C.
1844	William Wallace.....	Lawyer.....	Columbia, S. C.
1850	Robert Lebby, Jr.....	Physician & Planter.	Charleston, S. C.
1858	Isaac Hayne.....	Lawyer.....	Charleston, S. C.
1848	E. W. Seibels.....	Gen'l Insur. Agent..	Columbia, S. C.
1848	Jas. P. Adams.....	Planter.....	Groveswood, S. C.
1854	W. J. Duffie.....	Merchant.....	Columbia, S. C.
1846	E. L. Patton.....	Minister & Professor.	Due West, S. C.
1846	W. E. Aiken.....	M. D.....	Winnsboro, S. C.

YEAR.	NAME.	PROFESSION.	POST OFFICE.
1846	A. S. J. Perry.....	Merchant.....	Charleston, S. C.
1846	Wm. H. Parker.....	Lawyer.....	Abbeville, S. C.
1846	W. H. Huger.....	M. D.....	Charleston, S. C.
1846	Isaac H. Means.....	Planter.....	Fairfield, S. C.
1846	Thos. B. Jeter.....	Planter.....	Union, S. C.
1846	B. R. Scott.....	Teacher.....	Monticello, S. C.
1859	Milton Leverett.....	.....	Columbia, S. C.
1859	W. C. Coker.....	Merchant & Planter.	Society Hill, S. C.
1859	R. W. Shand.....	Lawyer.....	Union, S. C.
1859	James Simons.....	Lawyer.....	Charleston, S. C.
1861	L. C. Sylvester.....	Teacher.....	Columbia, S. C.
1848	Robert Henry.....	Physician.....	Gourdin's Sta., S. C.
1850	Joseph Glover.....	Planter.....	Grahamville, S. C.
1869	R. Means Davis.....	Teacher.....	Winnsboro, S. C.
1869	T. C. Gaston.....	Lawyer.....	Chester, S. C.
1870	M. C. Robertson.....	Clerk.....	Winnsboro, S. C.
1867	N. B. Barnwell.....	Attorney-at-Law.....	Columbia, S. C.
1868	Jno. S. Reynolds.....	Attorney-at-Law.....	Winnsboro, S. C.
1869	T. R. Robertson.....	Attorney-at-Law.....	Charlotte, N. C.
1869	Isaac M. Bryan.....	Attorney-at-Law.....	Greenville, S. C.
1847	Thos. B. Fraser.....	Judge.....	Sumter, S. C.
1841	J. D. Blanding.....	Lawyer.....	Sumter, S. C.
1841	Alex. McQueen.....	Senator.....	Cheraw, S. C.
1841	Wm. F. Lester.....	Farmer.....	Columbia, S. C.
1844	J. K. Vance.....	Planter.....	Laurens, S. C.
1849	Jno. W. Carlisle.....	Lawyer.....	Spartanburg, S. C.
1857	Elias L. Rivers.....	Planter.....	Charleston, S. C.
1857	J. F. J. Caldwell.....	Lawyer.....	Newberry, S. C.
1870	T. H. Gibbes.....	Banker.....	Columbia, S. C.
1870	W. E. Pelham.....	Druggist.....	Newberry, S. C.
1845	W. F. B. Haynesworth..	Lawyer.....	Sumter, S. C.
1873	Jno. A. Faber.....	Lawyer & Reporter..	Charleston, S. C.
1874	Jno. P. Thomas, Jr.....	Lawyer.....	Columbia, S. C.
1858	Thomas F. Gadsden.....	Minister.....	Anderson, S. C.
1869	Jno. J. Hemphill.....	Lawyer.....	Chester, S. C.
1858	Abram Huguenin.....	Lawyer.....	Beaufort, S. C.
1842	W. H. R. Workman.....	Lawyer.....	Camden, S. C.
1862	Augustine Thos. Smythe.	Lawyer.....	Charleston, S. C.
	Andrew M. Adger.....	Cotton Factor.....	Charleston, S. C.
	E. E. Jenkins.....	Physician.....	Charleston, S. C.



## CORRESPONDENCE.

COLUMBIA, S. C., 13th December, 1881.

Hon. LEROY F. YOUMANS, *Columbia, S. C.*:

DEAR SIR: We have the honor to herewith transmit you a copy of a resolution introduced by Rev. E. L. Patton, D. D., at a meeting of the Alumni of the South Carolina College and University, held in the Hall of the House of Representatives, at Columbia, S. C., on the evening of December 6th, instant, and unanimously adopted:

*Resolved*, That the thanks of this Association be tendered to the Hon. LeRoy F. Youmans for his eloquent, finished, and classical address "just delivered before the Alumni, and that a copy of the same be requested for publication;" and in accordance therewith we request of you a copy for publication.

We have the honor to be,

Your obedient servants,

JAMES SIMONS,  
JOHN T. SLOAN, JR.,  
Secretaries.

COLUMBIA, S. C., December 13, 1881.

To JAMES SIMONS and JOHN T. SLOAN, JR., Esqrs.:

GENTLEMEN: In response to your request, made at the instance of the Alumni of the South Carolina College and University, for a copy of my address delivered on December 6th instant, I have the honor to say, that, impelled by the same motives which induced me to accept the invitation to deliver the address, I herewith send you the manuscript.

Very respectfully,

LEROY F. YOUMANS.

In the House of Representatives of the State of South Carolina, on December 1, 1881, Mr. Simonton introduced the following resolution, which was considered immediately, and agreed to:

*Resolved*, That the use of the Hall of the House of Representatives be allowed to the Alumni of the South Carolina College and University for the evening of Tuesday, 6th December, upon which occasion an oration will be delivered before the Alumni by Hon. LeRoy F. Youmans.

On the evening of Tuesday, 6th December, 1881, the Hon. John L. Manning read to the audience assembled in the Hall of the House of Representatives, the following :

At a meeting of the Committee appointed to inaugurate a movement for the formation of an Association of the Alumni of the South Carolina College, the Hon. John L. Manning, Chairman, being detained by sickness in his family, Chief Justice Simpson was called to the chair, and General John Bratton requested to act as Secretary, when the following resolutions were unanimously adopted :

*Resolved, First.* That it should be a matter of congratulation to the State, that the South Carolina College at Columbia has been reopened under such favorable auspices as now surround it.

*Second.* That the Trustees now in charge are entitled to the plaudit of "well done" for the earnest and disinterested zeal which they have manifested in putting this noble institution into operation.

*Third.* That with a view to foster, encourage, and sustain this institution, and still further to increase its usefulness, it is desirable that a permanent Association, consisting of its Alumni, should be organized at an early day.

*Fourth.* That to this end, the surviving Alumni of this institution prior to the 1st of January, 1874, and subsequent to the 1st of January, 1880, be invited to meet in Columbia on the first Monday of December next, at 7 o'clock p. m., and that an Executive Committee, consisting of Messrs. J. H. Rion, F. W. McMaster, and A. S. J. Perry, be appointed to extend invitations and make the necessary arrangements for said meeting.

*Fifth.* That in view of the fact that this institution, as at present organized, is now without regular Professors in the departments of Ancient and Modern Languages, the Executive Committee herein appointed be requested to suggest to the Association, when formed, a scheme to supply this deficiency.

*Sixth.* That the Hon. LeRoy F. Youmans be invited to deliver a public address suitable to the occasion.

W. D. SIMPSON, Chairman.

JOHN BRATTON, Secretary.

After reading these resolutions, the Hon. John L. Manning introduced to the audience the Hon. LeRoy F. Youmans, who delivered the following address :



## ADDRESS.

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The invitation which has been tendered me in accordance with the last of these resolutions, has been accepted not from any sense of my ability to deliver such an address; for, on the contrary, there is upon me the most profound consciousness of my inability to deliver a public address suitable to this occasion. And had I been privileged to have a voice, aye, even had I known that my name had been suggested for this purpose, I would have insisted that sons of the College far more competent than myself should have been selected for the performance of this duty. But the invitation has been accepted, because the request of the foster sons of the South Carolina College imposes upon every one who has been nurtured by her, a *command* to at least *attempt* performance of whatever office may, in their judgment, tend to encourage, sustain, and increase the usefulness of our common fostering mother.

On the 19th December, 1801, the General Assembly ratified the Act to establish the College, and the College itself went into operation on the 10th January, 1805. The impelling motives to the passage of this Act, and the purposes with which and the objects for which the College was established, are manifest both from the contemporaneous records of the State, and the contemporaneous testimony of the men who assisted at its birth and stood by the side of the cradle in which its infancy was rocked, from the statements of those to whom the facts were narrated by the actors, and from the pen of the historian. On November 23d, 1801, in pursuance of the duty imposed upon him, as Governor, by the Constitution, "from time to time, to give to the General Assembly information of the condition of the State, and to recommend

to their consideration such measures as he should judge necessary or expedient," Governor John Drayton, in his message to the General Assembly, said: "Advantageous to the citizens of the State will be any attention which you will bestow upon the education of her youth. At the commencement of your last session I took pleasure in submitting this to your consideration, and I now repeat the same to you as a matter claiming your serious and early attention. Were a person to look over the laws of the State, he would find that five Colleges are incorporated therein; and did his inquiries proceed no further, he would naturally imagine we had already arrived at an enviable excellence in literature. He would perceive a College instituted at Charles Town, one at Cambridge, one at Winnsborough, one at Beaufort, and one by the name of Alexandria College, in the upper part of the State—all of which are empowered to confer degrees. But were he to direct his inquiries further concerning them, he would find that Cambridge and Winnsborough Colleges were soon discontinued through a want of funds; and, although the last mentioned one has been lately renewed through the exertions of the Mount Zion Society, it is still nothing but an elementary school, and one which can never rise to eminence as a College from its present support. Beaufort and Alexandria Colleges are as yet scarcely known but in the law which incorporated them, and Charleston College is at present not entitled to an higher appellation than that of a respectable Academy or Grammar School."

"Could the attention of the Legislature be directed to this important object, and a State College be raised and fostered by its hand at Columbia, or some central and healthy part of the State, under proper directors and trustees, including as *ex officio* members the Executive and Judiciary of the State, and any other suitable public officers, there could be no doubt of its rising into eminence, because, being supported at first by the public funds,

the means could not be wanting of inviting and providing for learned and respectable Professors in the various branches of science. Well chosen libraries would be procured, and philosophical apparatus lead the pursuits of our youth from theory to practice. The friendships of young men would thence be promoted and strengthened throughout the State, and our political union be much advanced thereby."

The brief, yet accurate, unmistakable, and comprehensive words of the preamble of the Act incorporating the College, are :

"WHEREAS, *the proper education of youth* contributes greatly to the prosperity of society, and ought always to be an object of legislative attention ; and whereas, the establishment of a COLLEGE in a central part of the State, *where all its youth* may be educated, will highly promote the instruction, the good order, and *the harmony of the whole community.*"

So far as their contemporaneous expression can convey the idea of the Executive and Legislative Departments of the State as to the motives, objects, and purposes of the founders of the College, this record is full, clear, and conclusive.

In our judicial tribunals, it is not permissible to introduce testimony in support of the credibility of witnesses, until that credibility has been assailed ; but as respects all matters which come up for settlement before the high tribunal of history, it is, if not absolutely necessary, at least eminently proper, to establish something as to the character of witnesses, their means of information, and their capacity and qualifications, intellectual and moral, for accuracy of perception, correctness of narrative, and soundness of judgment.

Governed by this idea and speaking solely in this regard, I shall call attention, in briefest words, to Chancellor Henry W. DeSaussure, Chancellor Wm. Harper, Chief Justice John Belton O'Neill, and Dr. Maximilian LaBorde.

Chancellor DeSaussure, descended from a noble foreign ancestry, was born in the low country of South Carolina prior to the Revolution, served as a volunteer in that war, while still a boy, and after the fall of the city of Charleston, refused to take British protection, and was sent to the prison ships. He was a member of the Convention which framed the Constitution of 1790, and, with Marion, advocated every proposition of mercy in favor of the beaten Tories. Afterwards he was director of the mint, at the instance of President Washington, from which position he retired with the thanks of the Father of his country, for the manner in which the duties had been performed, and the regrets of the same great man at his retirement. And still later he was the head of the municipal government of the city of Charleston. His fame was won both on military and civil fields. Of him, in 1837, Governor Pierce Butler said: "He has won the sword of a soldier amidst the perils of Revolution, and the ermine of a virtuous magistrate in peace; the one was never used but against the enemies of his country, and the other will descend from him without spot or blemish."

The Legislature of the same date spoke most feelingly of his "long, able, and faithful services to the people of South Carolina, in the high judicial station which he had occupied," and said that those "services not only furnished the best memorial of his worth, but an enduring example to those who are destined to succeed him." Of him, in 1859, Chief Justice O'Neill said: "To him the system of Equity in South Carolina owes its shape, form, and existence. He was to South Carolina what Kent was to New York." Indeed, by common consent of Bench and Bar, he is, to the system in South Carolina, what Nottingham was to that in South Britain—its father. He was one of that most important Committee to whom was referred the message of Governor Drayton, recommending the establishment of the College. Perhaps to his

efforts, more than to those of any other man, the College owes its existence. He was a member of the first Board of Trustees of the College, and from the inception of its organization to the end of his long and useful life, in 1839, he watched over its progress and fortunes with parental solicitude ; and his "venerable form, as he came up to each annual commencement, his silvery locks waving in the bleak December's wind, and his noble countenance beaming with animation, as he viewed each graduating class go forth into the busy world, educated and prepared for its struggles," carried the mind back to the days when the foundations of the institution were laid, coeval with the commencement of the century.

Of Chancellor William Harper it may be justly said, without reflecting upon the memory of any of the great men who have ever worn, or the valuable services of any of those who now wear, the judicial ermine in South Carolina, that there has never been his superior on the bench of the State. In truth, he united all the qualities of a great judge : an intellect comprehensive, quick, and acute, learning immense, memory most capacious and retentive, diligence, integrity, patience, suavity ; and in so far as a comparatively limited area and restricted theatre permit, is entitled to rank with Eldon, Marshall, Sugden, the great modern masters of the law.

He was the first student admitted into the College, and in the language of his life-long friend, Mr. Petigru, himself for forty years the leader of the bar of South Carolina, Harper was "the bard, the orator, the genius of the school." From the day of his entrance within its walls, until his death in 1847, no man took a deeper interest in, was a more close observer of, or more thoroughly acquainted with, the life, theory, and practice, of the College.

The name of John Belton O'Neill has been so long and so closely associated with the history of South Carolina, that to

speaking of his services to the State, or of his high qualifications for the successive great positions which he held, would be to rehearse a thrice-told tale. In vigor of intellect, in purity of purpose, in that intellectual and moral strength which pierces through labyrinths of sophistry, and aims unerringly for the right, in close, compact, articulated logic, and high poignant emphasis, he may fairly challenge comparison with any of that long line of princes of the gown who have built up and adorned the jurisprudence of South Carolina. From February, 1811, when from his native Newberry, whose annals he has written, he entered the South Carolina College, to his lamented death amid the rage of the civil war, than he there lived no more faithful guardian, no more devoted son of his Alma Mater.

Of all the names on the bead-roll of the distinguished sons of the College, no one was so intimately acquainted and connected with it for so long a time as Dr. Maximilian LaBorde. In it, and with it, and for it, he lived and moved and had his earthly being; and when, by rude hands the cords which bound them together were snapped, the silver cord was loosed, the golden bowl broken, the pitcher broken at the fountain, the wheel broken at the cistern. Exclusive of the inestimable services which he rendered to three decades of students, who had sat at his feet and amid whose tears he was borne to his honored grave in these late disastrous times, he has earned by his classic history of the College, accurate in fact and just in criticism, a work which after times will not willingly let die, the admiration and gratitude of the State which will last as long as the name of the College is extant.

*Hear what these men say:* From the Memoir of Chancellor DeSaussure, prepared by Chancellor Harper, at the request of the South Carolina Bar Association, Dr. LaBorde, in his History of the College, makes this extract:

“In 1801, as a member of the Legislature, he took a zealous

and active part in promoting the Act for the establishment of the South Carolina College, and few contributed more to its success; an Act of more lasting benefit to the State, more honorable to its character, and more promotive of its true interests, than any which its Legislature ever passed. This measure originated in the contest which had arisen between the *upper and lower country* of the State, with respect to representation in the Legislature. The upper country, which, at the adoption of the Constitution of 1791, was comparatively poor and unpeopled, had allotted to it, by the provisions of the Constitution, a much smaller representation. It had now grown in wealth, far outnumbered the lower country in its population, and imperatively demanded a reform in the representation. This the people of the lower country feared to grant, on the ground of the general deficiency of education and intelligence in the upper country, which would render it incompetent to exercise wisely and justly the power which such a reform would place in its hands. It was to remedy this deficiency, that it was proposed to establish a College at Columbia. The Act was passed, not without difficulty, nor without the strenuous opposition of many whom it was more especially intended to benefit. There is no citizen of the State, and still more, there is no one who has directly and personally received the benefits of the institution, whose deepest gratitude is not due to every one who contributed, in any degree, to the success of the measure."

Chief Justice O'Neill, in his Biographical Sketches of the Bench and Bar of South Carolina, says: "In 1800, Mr. DeSaussure was returned to the Legislature, and there, in 1801, aided successfully in establishing the South Carolina College. He said to me, 'We of the lower country well knew that the power of the State was thenceforward to be in the upper country, and we desired our future rulers to be educated men.' "And," continues Chief Justice O'Neill, as late as 1859, "if he (Mr. DeSaussure) had never

done anything beyond this, which literally forced education upon the country lying north and west of Columbia, his memory ought to be loved and cherished by the thousands who have thus been educated."

DeSaussure, Harper, O'Neill, LaBorde, all are gone. They all were men who, in their several spheres, had spoken history, acted history, lived history, and this is the story they tell.

If we proceed from consideration of the impelling motives, purposes, and objects, which actuated the founders of the College, and inquire to what extent these purposes and objects have been accomplished, to what extent their hopes and expectations have been realized, to what extent the education of youth within its walls has contributed to the prosperity of society, to what extent the College in its practical workings has promoted the instruction, the good order, and the harmony of the whole community, to what extent by its influence the friendships of young men have been promoted and strengthened throughout the State, and our political union advanced thereby; it will be found, beside the testimony of the four distinguished witnesses already given, there is a mass of testimony of every admissible species, which gives a full, complete, satisfactory, and perfect answer. As early as 1823, when the College had been in operation but eighteen years, we find expressed on the records of the State, the opinion of the Committee of the General Assembly on the College. It must be remembered that by the Rules of the General Assembly there was in the House a Standing Committee on Education, and in the Senate a Standing Committee on the College, Education, and Religion.

Thus spoke the Committee of the General Assembly in 1823:

"~~The~~ The College, created by the patriotism and wisdom of a former Legislature, and supported by the bounty and liberality of their successors, has already given back to the State the most ample compensation for its endowment, and affords the most



abundant cause of congratulation to every lover of letters, and to every lover of his country. The triumph of learning is proclaimed throughout the State, and the voice of improvement is heard in every parish and in every village, from the seaboard to the mountains. A taste for knowledge is excited only to be gratified, and the power of intellect is felt and acknowledged in every corner of the State; the dormant genius of many a youth is roused from its slumber, and devoted to usefulness and the glory of his country.

“The distinction which is so frequently attained by the alumni of this institution, not only in the learned professions, and in the Legislature of Carolina, but in the deliberative assemblies of the General Government, cannot be contemplated without pride and exultation.”

Thus spoke a similar Committee in 1825:

“In contemplating the advantages which are daily accruing to the State from the establishment of this institution, your Committee cannot refrain from repeating what they have often expressed, their unbounded respect for the wisdom and patriotism of those men whose names are recorded as the founders of this monument of their intelligence and virtue. 'Tis the policy of tyrants to entammel the human understanding, and the privilege of despotism to darken the intellect of slaves. 'Tis the security of freedom that her sons are enlightened, and the boast of republicans that theirs is the doctrine of equal rights, which can alone be maintained by the diffusion of general and correct information. 'Tis for them to remember, that ‘knowledge is power,’ and their liberty is safe; but should they ever forget that political strength is but another name for learning and for science, *that* liberty is endangered. Your Committee feel no disposition to dwell upon a subject which is already so well understood, or unnecessarily to urge a continuance of your patronage, when

they believe that its influence is so universally acknowledged in every corner of your State, and in every department of your government the living evidences that your liberality has been rewarded, are preëminently conspicuous. The flowers of literature are blooming in every valley, and the tree which 'puts forth good fruit' is dispensing its blessings from the tops of your mountains to the shoals of the Atlantic. 'Tis for you to admire this beautiful picture, to cultivate this garden which has been seeded by yourself, and to leave to your posterity the abundant harvest which its fertility will ensure them."

Thus spoke Governor Hamilton, in his Message, 1832:

"No circumstance has occurred to diminish our well-founded confidence in the usefulness of the South Carolina College, which is going on with regularity and success in the process of qualifying those who are to come after us to fulfil the high functions and offices appertaining to the public weal. That this fountain of light may diffuse its beams over our whole State, and be felt in the wide extension of literature, science, and all useful knowledge, must depend on your parental care and unrelaxed vigilance. To discharge this duty is a debt which you must pay, under a sacred obligation, to posterity."

Thus spoke Governor Robert Y. Hayne, in his Message in 1833:

"The College has unquestionably contributed largely to the extension of knowledge; and in the distribution throughout the State of well educated and influential men, has amply repaid all the care and attention of the State."

In replying to some opposition to the South Carolina College, Judge Huger said to the House of Representatives, that if the College had never done anything more than educate McDuffie, it would be ample compensation to the State for all her expenditures on the institution.

Thus spoke McDuffie, while Governor, in his Message in 1835 :

“Under the guidance of a Faculty equally distinguished for high qualifications and devotion to their very important duties, it offers to the rising generation of our State as many advantages as any similar institution in the United States. I cannot too strongly recommend it to the patronage of an enlightened Legislature, and to the countenance and support of every patriotic citizen. It is scarcely possible to place too high an estimate on its importance. Upon its successful administration will depend, in no small degree, the character and destiny of the State. The very great and salutary change which it has produced in the character of our community, within the last thirty years, is an evidence of the high purposes to which it can be made subservient.

“The community at large must give it their countenance and support, and in some sort, their superintendence.”

Thus spoke McDuffie, while Governor, in his Message in 1836 :

“The flourishing condition of the College must be eminently gratifying to every patriotic citizen in the State, of every denomination, religious or political. And however obvious the truth, we cannot too habitually impress it upon our minds, that the usefulness of this institution, so intimately connected with the character of the State and the welfare of the generations that are to follow us, will greatly depend upon the degree in which the spirit of party, religious and political, shall be excluded from its government. Let this, at least, be a temple dedicated exclusively to science and literature, where all the citizens of the State can mingle their devotions in harmony and peace.

“I cannot conclude this interesting topic without earnestly commending the College to your enlightened patronage and fostering care, as the guardians of the rising generation.”

Thus spoke Pierce M. Butler, while Governor, in his Message in 1837 :

“The College is justly an object of pride to the State. If its liberal and enlightened friends and projectors could see its fruits, they would have abundant cause of satisfaction and gratification. Every citizen in the State may justly regard it as part of his property. If he has not received any immediate advantage himself, his son may. The destiny of the State may be said to depend on this institution. The young men who are in it should be made to understand and believe that the public take all interest in them.”

And thus, while Governor, in his Message in 1838 :

“The affairs of the College are in a condition to fulfil the best wishes of its friends. This institution has exercised a vast influence over the character of the State, and I believe is destined to be its palladium of safety, amidst the popular commotions which too frequently agitate all free states. The knowledge acquired and the friendships contracted here will be stronger than popular violence. Those who have formed good opinions of each other, when they were associated together in the intimacy of unreserved communication, will retain and cultivate a spirit of liberality and forgiveness, even in the heats of political hostility. Our wise and prudent ancestors could not have devised a more noble and effectual means of perpetuating their glorious influence over the destinies of their country, than by the establishment of an institution of literature and science, under the fostering care of the State, in which their precepts would be valued, and their examples appreciated. This institution should be a primary object of State policy and popular pride. It is the institution of the people, and for the people. It is there they must acquire the intelligence to govern themselves. The Legislature should not hesitate to make any appropriation which the interests of the College may require.”

Governor Richardson says, in his Message, 1841 :

"I need not, I trust, recommend to your continued favor and patronage, an institution, whose enlightened contributions have extended to every pursuit and avocation—every art and science, as cultivated in our State—and whose influences have been diffused through all the walks and vocations of life, occupying every station in society, pervading every profession, and adorning the Bench, the Bar, the Pulpit, and our Legislative councils. The moral weight and influence which South Carolina has so long exercised, through the talents and usefulness of her statesmen, on the affairs of this Union, and which this institution has so largely contributed to preserve, is of itself an overruling inducement to foster and improve it."

Governor Richardson, in his Message, 1842, says:

"We may contemplate with a pride and gratification proportionate to its eminent usefulness and success, the continued results of the liberal and enlightened patronage bestowed upon our College. The most munificent of all our State endowments, the most honorable of all its benefactions, the most useful of all its institutions, the most imperishable monument of its wisdom and liberality, its continued and uninterrupted career of success and prosperity, even amidst the unusual disadvantages of the present year, cannot but be a source of the most heartfelt gratification to its official patrons. Adding its annual tribute of learning to the general intelligence of the State; the perennial source of its literature, its erudition, and its eloquence; contributing its successive generations of enlightened youth, to commence their ardent career of usefulness and of honor, and to occupy their distinguished places in society; we have just reason to exult in the unabated prosperity which it manifests, in the number, the morals, and the acquirements of its students, and in the zeal, erudition, and judicious management of its Faculty. . . . The benefits of a single year, the attainments of a single class, the acquirements of one

only of its ripe scholars, the fruit of a single one of those great minds whose energies it has developed, would not only compensate for all the patronage which has hitherto been extended to it, but is immeasurably more valuable to the State than the results of all her other benefactions to advance the progress of education."

Governor Hammond says, in his Message in 1843:

"The College, founded and sustained by the wise munificence of the State, has done, and continues to do, more than was expected of it."

Governor Hammond says, in his Message of 1844:

"The College has done, and continues to do, more for the State, than every other corporation put together, within her limits."

In the Reports and Resolutions of 1844, p. 165, we find the Committee on Education, to whom was referred so much of the Governor's Message No. 2 as relates to the establishment of a Professorship of Greek Literature in the College, respectfully report:

"That they have considered the same. It would be a work of supererogation for your Committee, at this time, to enlarge upon the numerous advantages attendant on a liberal and complete classical education, or to urge upon the Legislature of South Carolina such a patronage of her College, as to place that institution on terms of honorable competition with similar ones throughout the Union. The learned languages are mingled with the literature of every civilized people; their construction and graces have imparted strength and elegance to modern tongues of the rudest original. The principles of science, of philosophy and government, have been generalized and expanded over many nations, by the potent influence of those languages, which, having no living speech or separate existence, are the common inheritance of all the learned, and the channels of universal truth.

"No human system of education can so elevate the character,

inspire correct sentiments of honor and patriotism, or refine the taste of youth, as that which is based upon profound and critical classical attainments. As exercises of the mind, they give healthy vigor, and enrich it with graceful accomplishment. In our country, it is to be regretted that these studies have been, perhaps, too much sacrificed to the sterner duties and more exacting necessities of life. For a long time past, it has been a subject of anxious solicitude with the dignified and enlightened gentlemen who compose the Board of Trustees of the South Carolina College, to supply the want of higher instruction than has hitherto been furnished, and to elevate the standard of classical education."

Governor Johnson says, in his Message in 1847:

"In the increasing usefulness and growing prosperity of the South Carolina College, the State is reaping the full fruits of the liberal patronage which she has heretofore bestowed upon that institution. It ranks, now, amongst the most useful asylums of learning in the southern portion of the Union, and under its present wise and prudent and energetic government, it bids fair to take the lead of all. It is only the few who have lived like myself in times preceding the organization of this institution, who can realize the full benefits which have resulted from it. Before, the only organs of imparting science and learning within the State were a few grammar schools, widely dispersed, in which the ancient classics were principally taught, with which were occasionally united a few of the elementary branches of the exact sciences; a higher grade of mental culture was reserved for the very few who had the means of going to some of the Northern or foreign colleges to complete their education; and mental darkness pervaded the land. But under the fostering influence of this institution, the lights of literature and the sciences have penetrated the recesses of the mountains, the islets of the sea-coast, and spread over the whole intermediate space. The num-

ber of students is now something like fourfold what it was a few years ago ; and this addition would seem to indicate the necessity of an addition to the number of Professors, and necessarily enlarged accommodations for the students. I will not anticipate what the Board of Trustees, whose peculiar duty and province it is to advise on this subject, may suggest. But I will not allow myself to question, that whatever appropriations may be necessary to sustain and promote this invaluable institution, will not be withheld."

The following is an extract from an address by Colonel S. W. Trotti, at the Citadel Academy. Colonel Trotti was a distinguished member of Congress :

"If, in the opinion of many, the Free School System has proved a failure, and in the estimation of all, has not accomplished the good that was expected, how, I ask, has it fared with the College? Has that been a failure, or rather has it not accomplished all, and more than all, that its most ardent friends and admirers even dreamed of? Roll out the noble catalogue of its graduates, and let it speak for itself. From its earliest alumni down to its latest, from Harper and Petigru and Preston and McDuffie and O'Neill and Legaré, and a host of others, whose names are identified with all that is great in eloquence and learning, down to the youthful Cantey and Adams and Moragne and Brooks and Dickinson, who yielded up their lives in a blaze of glory, amid the thunders of Churubusco and Chapultepec. *I know there are some, who give grudgingly every dollar which that College gets, and who look upon all colleges as expensive and aristocratic institutions, which only benefit those who are educated at them. I trust, however, there are but few ; and to such economists, perhaps, the best arguments that can be applied, are such as can be gathered from Pike's Arithmetic. And let us see what a little rippering can do.* The State annually spends some fifteen or



twenty thousand dollars on the College. This amount is laid out in the State, employs labor in the State, and forever remains in the State. In addition to this, the College brings young men into the State, who otherwise would not have come, and who spend their money here, in acquiring an education. Suppose we had no College at all: these two hundred young men, now at the College in Columbia, would go out of the State to receive an education, and carry with them some ninety thousand dollars annually, to pay for it. A pretty considerable figure, on the wrong side of an account. The economy which would withhold a few thousand dollars from active employment in the State, and annually drive ninety thousand entirely out of it, never to return, rather subjects itself to the imputation of being 'penny wise and pound foolish.' Nor can anything be more erroneous than that Colleges only benefit those who are educated at them. The honored names already referred to, should be conclusive. Education does much to promote the general prosperity of the country; and however poor a man may be, he is more or less benefited by the prosperity around him. Every man is interested in the preservation of order, and education promotes that. But above all, every well educated man is more or less a teacher, and exercises an influence on others, sometimes for evil, it is true, but much oftener for good. It is his knowledge which enables him to defend the rights of the injured, or heal the diseases of the suffering. It is his science which points out the resources of the State, or it is his learning which aids his divine mission in the glorious work of gospel peace."

In addition to the above testimony of witnesses who were magistrates of State, it would be doing injustice to the College and to my appreciation of the purposes for which I was invited to make this address, did I fail to call your most earnest attention to the testimony on record of another witness, whose opportunities of

knowledge of the facts necessary to form a correct judgment were unsurpassed, whose qualifications to form a correct judgment upon those facts were limited only by the bounds which limit the human mind, and whose position in the broad realms of philosophy and theology was as marked and elevated as that of any of the great men I have mentioned ever was in the councils of State. Need I say to this audience that the testimony which I urge upon your consideration is the celebrated letter on public instruction addressed in November, 1853, to John L. Manning, then Governor of South Carolina, by one of the most gifted of all the gifted sons whom the College has ever reared; second to none since Jonathan Edwards, if second even to him, of all those who, in latter years, have followed Calvin and bowed down to Aristotle; famed on both sides of the Atlantic for the highest intellectual endowments, for vigor of thought, closeness of logic, extent of learning, and lucidity of expression; the great Presbyterian divine, JAMES H. THORNWELL, so long connected with the College, as Professor, Chaplain, President, the early extinction of whose great light and life, not only the College, the State, and the Church, but education, science, philosophy, religion, will long continue to deplore? And this testimony, at all times of inestimable value, from its fulness and thoroughness, (for he touched nothing which he did not both exhaust and adorn,) is especially valuable now, because in it he answers certain objections to the support of the College by the State so ably, so comprehensively, and so conclusively, that any attempt to improve upon this masterpiece would be an attempt "to gild refined gold, to paint the lily." If there be any upon whom have been pressed such arguments as *these*, on the one hand, that the College is for the benefit of the few, and therefore should not be supported by the taxes of the many—that the College is an aristocratic institution, a resort for the rich, exclusive of the poor; or *these*, on

*the other hand*, that education, in its very nature, belongs to the Church or private enterprise ; that it includes elements which lie beyond the jurisdiction of the State, and therefore the State has no right to interfere with it.

I beg you to read this letter of the poor boy, who entered and went through the College, bearing off its highest honors, and ere the close of his brief and brilliant life, towered among men like Saul the son of Kish, or like Turnus among the Rutulian chiefs, "*Qui collo supereminet omnes ;*" who was a patriot so devoted to the State that he would have gone upon the scaffold with Sydney ; a Christian so devoted to the Church, that he would have gone to the stake with the martyrs. Read it, and see how his intellect, clear as a sunbeam, with its logic, incisive, and true as the cimeter of Saladin, pierces at once and forever through all such objections. There is time for but a few brief extracts.

"I have no hesitation in affirming, that if there be a place more than any other where the poor are honored and respected ; where indigence, if coupled with any degree of merit, is an infallible passport to favor, that place is the South Carolina College. It may be preëminently called the poor man's College, in the sense that poverty is no reproach within its walls, no bar to its highest honors and most tempting rewards, either amongst Professors or students ; on the contrary, if there is a prejudice at all, it is against the rich ; and from long observation and experience, I am prepared to affirm that no spirit receives a sterner, stronger, more indignant rebuke within these walls, than the pride and vanity of wealth."

"There never was a more grievous error than that the College is in antagonism to the interest of the people. Precisely the opposite is the truth ; and because it is preëminently a public good, operating, directly or indirectly, to the benefit of every

citizen of the State, the Legislature was originally justified in founding, and is, in still sustaining this noble institution. It has made South Carolina what she is; it has made her people what they are; and, from her mountains to her seaboard, there is not a nook or corner of the State that has not shared in its healthful influence."

"Let all the sects combine to support the State College, and they can soon create a sentiment which with the terrible certainty of fate, shall tolerate nothing unholy or unclean in its walls. They can make it religious without being sectarian. The true power of the Church over these institutions is not that of direct control, but of moral influence arising from her direct work upon the hearts and consciences of all the members of the community."

"There surely ought to be some common ground on which the members of the same State may meet together and feel that they are brothers—some common ground on which their children may mingle without confusion or discord, and bury every narrow and selfish interest in the sublime sentiment that they belong to the same family. Nothing is so powerful as a common education and the thousand sweet associations which spring from it and cluster around it, to cherish the holy brotherhood of men. Those who have walked together in the same paths of science and taken sweet counsel in the same halls of learning, who went arm in arm in that hallowed season of life when the foundations of all excellence are laid, who have wept with the same sorrows or laughed with the same joys, who have been fired with the same ambition, lured with the same hopes, and grieved at the same disappointments—these are not the men in after years to stir up animosities or foment intestine feuds. Their College life is a bond of union which nothing can break—a divine poetry of existence which nothing is allowed to profane. Who can forget his College days and his College companions and even his College dreams?

Would you make any commonwealth a unit? Educate its sons together. This is the secret of the harmony which has so remarkably characterized our State. It was not the influence of a single mind, great as that mind was; it was no tame submission to authoritative dictation. It was the community of thought, feeling, and character, achieved by a common education within these walls. Here it was that heart was knit to heart, mind to mind, and that a common character was formed.

“Let us have a college which is worthy of the name; to which we can invite the scholars of Europe with an honest pride, and to which our children may repair from all our borders, as the states of Greece to their Olympia, or the chosen tribes to Mount Zion.”

If the testimony of these “great of old, the dead but sceptred sovereigns who still rule our spirits from their urns,” is true, then upon each and every one of the Alumni of the College, and upon the State, there is the highest obligation to act to the fullest extent in accordance with that testimony. If that testimony is untrue, where has its untruth been proclaimed in the past? Where is it proclaimed in the present? Who make such proclamation? and upon what ground does such proclamation rest? I have adduced the testimony of no living man. They—living men—are here. Many of the living Alumni are here, in the full possession of every faculty of our being, with all those faculties in the full ardor of public life, with brilliant ambition to stimulate, and with that most exhilarating and tempting spell of human existence, popular acclamation, resounding in their ears. They can speak for themselves—they must act for themselves. Their testimony, as seen by the formation of this Association, is given with no uncertain sound. Nor have I spoken of the noble sons of Carolina, living or dead, who, by their munificent benefactions, have placed themselves on

the same plane which the great founders of scholarships at Oxford and Cambridge occupy in England; for every one in South Carolina, or in the South, interested in the College or addicted to letters, knows that the founders of scholarships in the South Carolina College are John L. Manning, the present Wade Hampton, Hiram B. Hutchinson, and R. F. W. Alston. Nor have I said aught of the great names which have been connected with this noble institution during the three-quarters of a century in which it has been in existence, except as was necessary for the purposes indicated,—not even of that brilliant galaxy of Professors who illustrated whatever there was of classic or scientific “*inter silvas academi*,” when thirty years ago, a callow boy of fifteen, I first entered within its dear old walls, save incidentally in the preceding connexion as I have spoken of my kind preceptors, Drs. LaBorde and Thornwell; nothing of Preston, then President, first of living orators, whose unstudied talks to his classes were worth more than what was in the text-books, Blair and Kames. Preston, even in his decline, as Macaulay says of Chatham, “an awful and majestic ruin, not to be contemplated by any South Carolinian of sense and feeling without emotions resembling those which are excited by the remains of the Parthenon and the Coliseum,” and whose utterances, even then, when aroused, he sent forth a flash of heroic rays, struck upon the ear, to use the perfect simile of Thomas Hanckel, “like the rich clash of stricken silver;” nor of Lieber, whose knowledge of history seemed almost universal, whose fame extended to both hemispheres, the most fertile, indomitable, unsleeping, combative, and propagandizing person of his race; nor of Williams, guileless as a child, most exact of mathematicians; nor of Pelham, most accomplished of essayists, and Professor of Roman Literature; nor of Henry, confessedly first of Grecians, who filled with ease any and every rôle in the department of Professor.

Shall I say to this audience, in behalf of higher education, that it is now even more true than when said by the prince of the old British essayists, that "what sculpture is to marble, education is to the human soul"? Shall I say to this audience that it is an age when it can be said with more truth than in the time of Sterne, "knowledge in most affairs and most of its branches is like music in an Italian street, whereof those may partake who pay nothing;" that it is an age when it can be said with more truth than when Hammond uttered it a third of a century ago, that "knowledge, no longer the night-blooming plant which produces its blossom but once an age, now vegetates like the orange in its genial climes, to which spring time and autumn flowers and fruits are ever present together;" that it is an age when time and space for the purposes of the transmission of intelligence have been almost annihilated, when the ocean has been virtually bridged and the continents united by electric bands, when lightning has been given to letters, and letters to lightning; when Samuel Morse and Cyrus Field have outstripped the proud boast of Puck in "the Midsummer Night's Dream," and "put a girdle round about <sup>the</sup> earth in less than forty minutes"? You remember when Daguerre was experimenting on the line of his great discovery, he came very near being confined for insanity; but we have seen the Sun God curbed by the handling of men, and made to paint, with an accuracy beyond the reach of Titian and Van Dyke, the thoughtful foreheads of grave statesmen, the scarred brows of rugged veterans, the sweet smiles of noble matrons, made to reproduce with all the exactness of the original that ideal suavity which Raphael gave his Madonnas at the mystic point of intersection of virginity, maternity, and divinity. We have seen Echo, the coyest of the Nymphs, imprisoned. We have seen the photograph and phonograph.

Shall I tell this audience that the schoolmaster is abroad, and

every twilight nook is open to the glare of the day; that superstition and priestcraft no longer rear their horrible empire in the human mind; that he who will not reason is a bigot, he who cannot reason is a fool, he who dare not reason is a slave; that thought, no longer an infant scared and whipped, has risen up like a strong man after slumber, a giant refreshed with wine; and has warred, and is still warring, with all old abuses and effete systems which have outlived their uses, with "the folios of dunces, the fires of inquisitors, and the dungeons of kings, and the long dull system of imposture and misrule which has sat for centuries like a gloating incubus on the fair neck" of humanity? Shall I tell this audience that "a hundred years now does the work of a thousand of the old years when Time was young, that it is the fifty years of Europe against the cycle of Cathay, the blood beats against the figures on the dial"? Shall I tell this audience that in all contests in life, from the most insignificant to the most important, from the Derby and the Goodwood Turf to the great Olympic races of life for the grandest prizes of human ambition and earthly interest, it is training, preparation, perfect education, that always win? What makes the huge wall crash before the course of the slight ball? 'Tis accelerated educated force. Life is real. Life is earnest. Life is the verb to do. Life is *ἀγών*—strife; and in strife in this right masterful world, the weaker must go to the wall. "*Imperium*," said Sallust eighteen hundred years ago in the regal language of Rome, "*imperium his artibus retinetur quibus initio partum est.*" Empire, command, excellence, influence, are retained, and can be retained, only by the exercise of those high qualities of the soul by which they were originally obtained. This truth is resonant on every page of recorded history from the grey dawn of antiquity to the year of grace in which we live; it has been echoed and re-echoed down all the corridors of time. As they sank for the last time



beneath the wave which has engulfed so many priceless argosies, it has rung in the ears of mighty peoples that have preceded us; it may ring again in the ears of as mighty peoples that may succeed us; it will ring in ours, if we neglect the priceless lessons which it teaches.

If, from any false conceit, arising from vanity, indolence, narrowness or what not, we hug to our bosoms anything akin to the flattering delusion unfortunately but too prevalent, that "we are the people, and that wisdom will die with us," if we do not live up to our lights, our opportunities, our civilization, and our mission, we will most assuredly find at no distant day that the indolence, the ignorance, the carelessness, the frenzy of nations is the statesmanship of fate. Upon us will be the curse of Reuben, "Unstable as water, thou shalt not excel;" and ours too will be but a name writ upon the sands, destined to fade like the Tyrian dye and decay like Venetian palaces.

These thoughts, though important, and not to be lost sight of, are, it may be said, threadbare truisms, and "*difficile est proprie communia dicere*;" but we cannot shut our eyes to the fact that South Carolina is a member of the American Union, and that the Coursers of the Sun, as rising with the virgin light of the primal East, they make their broad circuit till they plunge with the dying day into the western ocean, show nowhere on the face of this great globe, to the Sun God whom they bear, so magnificent a spectacle of human happiness as these United States of America, placed by omnipotence in the giant hands of guardian oceans, with countless lakes, lovelier than dreams of the Faery Land, with countless valleys which might seem hollowed out to enclose the last homes of liberty, extending on lines of latitude from the ice bound regions of the North to the glittering waters of the South, from the snows where the hunter traps his game to where rolls the Mexican gulf, extending

on lines of longitude from ocean to ocean, from the ocean that roars to the ocean that sleeps, those outlines drawn by the fingers of God for the residence of a giant people, "its vast extent gemmed with the civilized beauties of a thousand cities, and peopled with untiring millions, under whose energy its rivers and inland seas roll down gold, its forests vanish, and its fields burst into luxuriant harvests," and destined sooner or later to absorb our hardy northern, and to control our degenerate southern neighbors on all this broad continent. Nor can we shut our eyes to the fact that of all the thirty-eight commonwealths which make up this vast, powerful, prosperous Union, South Carolina is behind each and every one of her sisters in both theoretical and practical appreciation of the fact that in this age of enormous intellectual development, it is the duty of each State which looks to success in the present, or life in the future, to establish and make accessible in the concrete, the highest grade of education possibly attainable, by means of its own institutions, within its own territory, and under its own supervising and fostering care; and that while the other States amid the roar of railroads and the click of telegraphs are bending every energy by State aid to educate their youth on such a plane as to keep them abreast of the progress of the age, the old Palmetto State, unmindful of her motto, "*Dum spiro, spero, spes,*" has been unable thoroughly to arouse herself even yet from the lethargy caused by her great disaster, and that certain worn-out theories and exploded dogmas of the past, which it was hoped the success of the College, for more than half a century, had sent forever to the tomb of the Capulets, have been stirred into a dangerous vitality. The evidence adduced is conclusive to show that the motives, purposes, and objects of the noble spirits who laid the foundations of the College three-quarters of a century ago, were based upon the broadest and wisest principles of statesmanship, upon the broadest and most

all-embracing principles of State patriotism, and that the most sanguine expectations and brightest hopes of these patriots and statesmen were more than realized. Even if, when this fair city, the capital of the State, glared beneath the torch, and revelling invaders were in every household ~~the~~; Campus walls and everything within them reared by the hand of man had gone down beneath the flames; it would seem that true statesmanship and that laudable ambition which Themistocles possessed and which possessed Themistocles to make a small state great, would prompt immediately the constituted authorities of the State to ensure the reëstablishment of this institution at as early a date as possible. But with a complete outfit of buildings and its exceedingly valuable library preserved, with the institution reopened under such favorable auspices, and with such an admirable corps of Professors, with the youth of the State, its hope and pride, commencing to flock to the old home of the classics and science, still breathing the aroma of the great spirits there trained for the triumphs they have obtained in the forum, the camp, and the council chamber; to neglect to foster, encourage, and sustain it, aye, even to neglect the doing of anything which would tend to restore it to its pristine influence, and make it flourish in perennial youth, would seem, on the part of the State, if not a blunder within Talleyrand's category of those blunders worse than crime, yet in the mildest view a fatal mistake, the consequences of which she will rue to the latest day of her existence as a State. And should the University have its power for high education restored to the standard of the old College, by the establishment of additional professorships, this institution would have additional advantages. Under the Act of Congress making the donation which now mainly supports the University, *Agriculture* and *Mechanics* are made specialties.

Besides, by authority of the same Act, the Secretary of War

will, as I am informed, soon detail an army officer as Professor of Tactics and the Art of War, whose salary is paid by the United States Government. Hence, with the distinguished graduate of West Point who now fills the chair of Mathematics, and this Professor of Tactics and the Art of War, the desirable features of a *military* education will be added to the former *curriculum*; and this will be the old Greek idea of education, that is, to fit men to perform the duties both of war and peace—the *beau idéal* of education in the great mind of Legaré.

The College has tended in the past more than any and every other influence singly or combined to unify the different sections of the State. Its triumph has been synonymous with the decline of sectionalism, its tendency to decadence has been synonymous with the tendency of the spirit of sectionalism to rise. While the College stands alive with energy and vigor, her limbs not bowed, nor rusted with a vile repose, South Carolina will be a unit. When the College falls, the adamant link with which the fathers sought to bind the different sections together, will be burst. God forbid that it should be burst by parricidal or matricidal hands! Sustain, foster, encourage, and put on former plane of usefulness, this noble institution which has in the past contributed so much, directly and indirectly, to the fame, honor, and interest of the State, and every part of it; and the tendency to dissension between different sections and interests which may have germinated during the dark days through which we have passed in the temporary eclipse of the warmth and light of this bond of brotherhood, will soon sleep forever where the carols of the larks are sleeping that gladdened the spring tides of those years; sleep, where the roses are sleeping that glorified the beauty of their summers; and the sons of South Carolina, unified and united by the benign influence of this great training school, an influence bright as the glittering stars in the wintry

sky, but soft as the summer's breeze, may, in the days which are yet to come and which shall fill up the inheritance of glory for our mother Carolina, give rise to a combination of character above the level of our time, thoughts suited to that elevation, feelings more generous, vivid, and majestic, and exploits uniting the soaring spirit of old Romance with the sustained thoughts of modern energy, and vindicate anew her title to her old heraldic legend, "ANIMIS OPIBUSQUE PARATI."

*Strong*

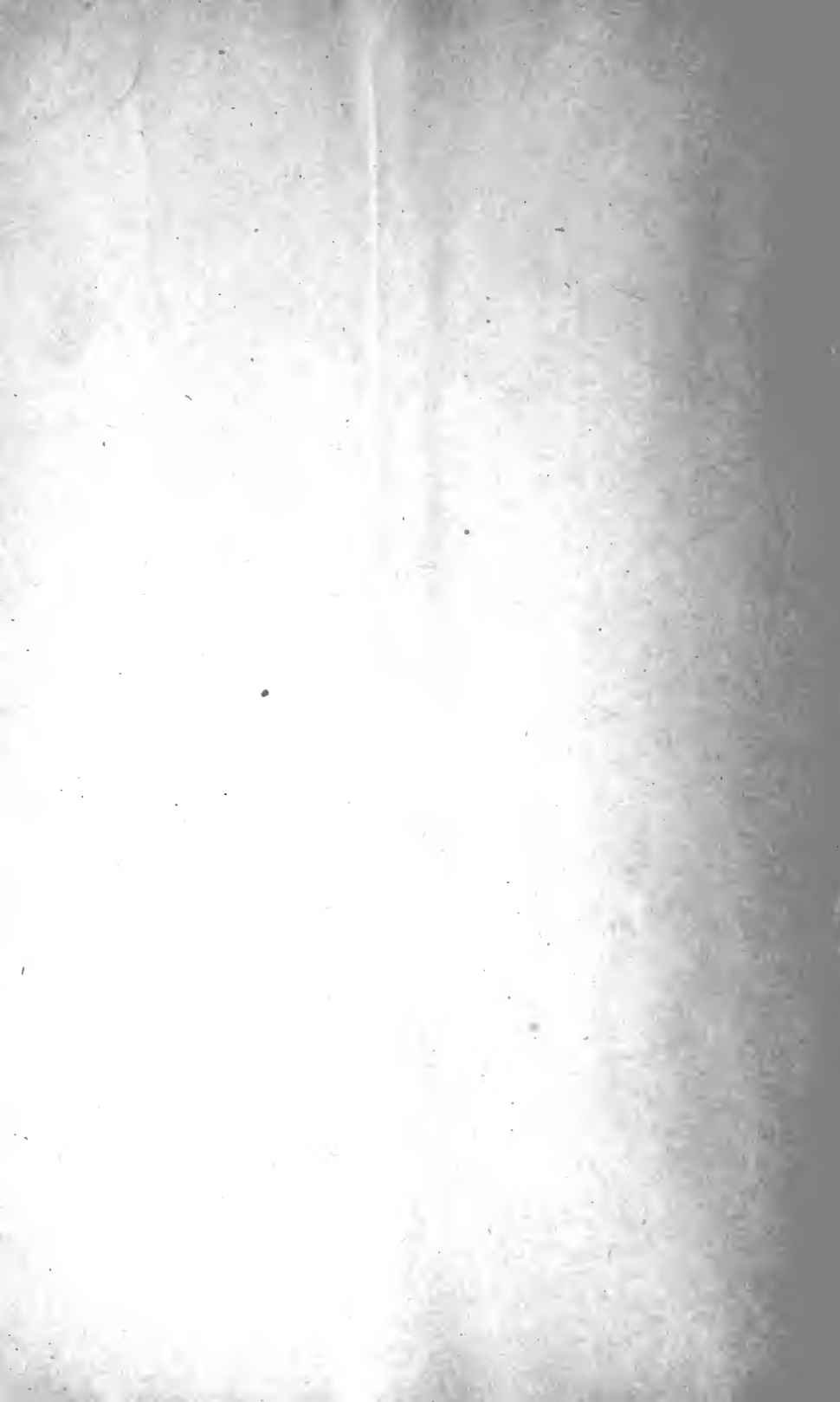














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